GOOD CROP PROSPECTS.

Despatches to Dun's Review from branches of R. G. Dun & Company in the leading trade centres of the Dominion of Canada indicate the prevalence of the usual mid-summer quiet, and while at some points it may be slightly more pronounced than a year ago, indications on the whole, are considered fairly favorable.

Favorable crop prospects throughout the far West and Northwest maintain confidence, and while there is not much activity at present, a brisk fall trade is anticipated.

The gross earnings of the Canadian railroads so far reporting for June, show a decrease of 14.8 per cent., as compared with the earnings of the same roads for the corresponding period a year ago.

Commercial failures in the Dominion of Canada this week number thirty-eight as against thirty-seven last week, and twenty-four the same week a year ago.

HOME INSURANCE COMPANY.

The semi-annual statement of the Home Insurance Company shows total assets of $34,246,171.92, being $1,106,256.11 more than the January 1, 1914, figures. The securities have advanced $499,416.60. The trade gain is $521,725.39. The net surplus January 1, 1914, was $10,077,019.69. On July 1, 1914, it was $10,391,671.99, an increase of $318,-652.30. To the reserve for unreported losses $100,-000 has been added and $50,000 has been added to the reserve for taxes.

The following table shows the trading for the half year:

Premiums first six months 1914.			$7,741,099 0[illegible]
Losses incurred	$4,292,776.90	(55.46)	
Expenses & taxes (less investment expense). . .	2,945 837 63		
	19,240,90		
	$2,926,596.73	(37 86)	
			7 219.373.6[illegible]
Trade gain			$521.725 39
Increase in unearned reserve..			840,938.00
Underwriting loss six months..			$319,212.61

MONTREAL SCHOOL BONDS.

The following tenders were received by the Roman Catholic School Commissioners for $500,000 4½% 40-year bonds:—

Dominion Securities Corporation. . . .	93.54
Meredith & Co.	92.69
N. W. Harris & Co.	90.9

none of which being considered satisfactory, the bonds were again withdrawn and in the meantime the Board will, we understand, borrow such sums as may be necessary for its purpose.

We think the offer of the Dominion Securities a fairly good one, considering present market conditions; and it must be borne in mind that although the bonds are practically City ones, they are not looked upon by investors in the same way as the City's direct bonds.

The Protestant School Commissioners, we fear, did not act wisely in refusing 95.09 for the entire issue of $1,000,000, as the difference between that and the upset price of 95.278 was a mere bagatelle.

CITY OF EDMONTON.

In its July number The Municipal Ownership Publishing Co., New York, states as follows:—

The City of Edmonton, Canada, has been generally regarded as a model for cities with municipal ownership aspirations. Recent disclosures, however, go to prove that the city's reputation for success in conducting public utilities has been founded upon faulty bookkeeping. Receipts and expenditures alone have been accounted for, no consideration whatever being given to such matters as interest, deterioration, upkeep, extension, renewals and other important items that are regarded as essential in the accounting of all privately operated utilities. As a result, instead of proving profitable, these utilities have shown deficits for the year 1913 as follows: Street railway system, $421,000; telephone system, $101,000; water works, $100,000; total, $622,000. And the service, it is alleged, has been both inefficient and inadequate. In discussing the subject the *Edmonton Bulletin* says:

"The news that only one of our four public utilities has been paying its way, and that the other three have among them piled up a debt of more than $600,000, which the ratepayers of the city are responsible for, will come as something of a shock to the man who has to share the burden. The surprise will be none the more pleasant that the situation is decidedly less favorable than has been generally supposed. The street railway was understood to have run behind something like $200,000 while the telephone system was last year shown to have a surplus of earnings over charges. These figures, it appears, were illusive, and were arrived at by neglecting the fact that equipment wears out before the bond issue with which it was bought matures. Correcting this miscalculation, the deficit of the street railway system is shown to be more than $400,000, while the telephone system, instead of a surplus of $30,000, has a deficit also of $101,000. The waterworks system also has a shortage of $100,000.

Commissioner Chalmers of the telephone department is now recommending a substantial increase to the city's telephone charges. He declares that the present rates do not cover the cost of maintenance.

EVERY FIRE A WARNING.

Every fire is a warning of a cause just as a typhoid fever patient is a warning of bad sanitary conditions. When this is recognised more generally there will be more co-operation to stop the fire loss.

Business to-day is done largely on credit, and to have credit there must be confidence. That confidence is largely inspired by a guarantee of fire insurance. No bank would make advances nor a loan company loan its money unless the property which is the basis of the security was protected against fire. The debentures of a city could not be sold unless it were recognized by investors that the city was well built and well protected and was adequately insured. The values of real estate are maintained and the permanence of employment guaranteed by modern fire insurance, and so it can be justly claimed that fire insurance, by giving confidence to the business world, is one of the principal foundation stones upon which the modern commercial fabric has been erected.—*Australian Financial Gazette & Insurance Chronicle.*